

3. Callus is sharply acute, long and with golden yellow hairs.
4. Awns are long and stout, with a very long column.
5. Upper floret is paleate.
6. Grain is closely adpressed with the basal part of the palea, and it is very difficult to separate them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to Dr. Thomas A. Cope of Herbarium — grasses, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew for kindly examining our specimens and for his opinion.

ON THE IDENTITY OF *ASPIDIUM FINLAYSONIANUM* WALL.¹

S. R. GHOSH²
(With a plate)

Aspidium finlaysonianum Wall. Cat. 2235, 1829 is a nomen nudum. This passed off unnoticed till Christensen in his index (1906) pointed out with a note of interrogation that this taxon is identical with *Lastrea falcifera* Moore. Moore (1858) in his index has shown that this taxon is conspecific either with *Lastrea immersa* or with *Lastrea falcifera*.

During the course of a revisionary study on the genus *Oleandra* in Indian sub-continent, I came across Wallichian specimen bearing Accession No. 19857 housed in CAL herbarium with an annotated label on which Wallich himself had written in ink.

48. *Oleandra* spec. ?

Prope *Aspidio nereiforme*, Swartz.

Asp. finlaysonianum, Wall. List. n. 2235

On the right hand corner there is another notation.

O. nereiforme Cav. Penang. Dr. Cantor.

Christensen (1934, 1937) raised a doubt

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² Cryptogamic Section, Botanical Survey of India, P. O. Botanic Garden, Howrah.

about the occurrence of *Oleandra nereiformis* in Malaysia and established that instead of this taxon, *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr. occurred in Malaysia. From my study it is evident that *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr. occurs in India instead of *O. nereiformis*. It may be assumed therefore that Wallichian taxon is synonymous with *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr. Holttum (1954), while providing a description of *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr., mentions two forms: Form I: "Fronds hairless, sori usually very close to the midrib, stipes very stout".

Form II: "Fronds usually more or less hairy, sori in an uneven rows not close to midrib, stipe 1 cm long but often much shorter".

Close examination of the Wallichian specimen showed that the Wallichian material exactly corresponds to form II mentioned above. I am of the opinion that it is a distinct species which has some other distinctive characters mentioned under key given below:

In view of above observation and as the Wallichian taxon is nomen nudum, a new name is proposed with detailed description including latin diagnosis. A key to differentiate it from

Oleandra pistillaris (Sw.) C. Chr. is also provided in this paper.

KEY TO TAXA

Lamina oblong, profusely hairy on lower surface, margin of rhizome scale profusely hairy, sori in irregular row.....*Oleandra malasianum*
 Lamina linear-lanceolate, glabrous on lower surface, margin of rhizome scale nearly entire and glabrous, sori in regular row....*Oleandra pistillaris*

***Oleandra malasianum* sp. nov.**

Synonym: *Aspidium finlaysonianum* Wall. list. n. 2235

Rhizoma rigidum, cylindricum, 3-5 mm, crassum, erectum, scandens, ramosum, squamis adpressis imbricatis dense tectum, squama caule peltifixa, in superficie rhizomatis sulcum formans, fuscata, lanceolata, 4-6 mm longa, 1-1.5 mm lata ad partem basalem, ad marginem profuse pilosa. Frondes in verticillis, 5-7 cm distantibus; Phyllopodia 2-3 mm longa, stipes phyllopodia articulatus, 2-5 mm longus, brunneus, dorsaliter sulcatus rotundatus. Lamina coriacea simplex, integra, oblonga, apices cordato acuminata, costa prominense superficie abaxiali sulcata superficie adaxiali, profuse pilosa infra. Venae liberae, bis vel ter furcatae, parallae, terminatae in hydathodis in serie dispositis prope marginem. Sorus solitarius indusiatus, positus in venas laterales, seriem

irregularem in castae utrumque latera formans. Indusium ad marginem integrum. Sporae monoletae.

Rhizome stiff, cylindrical, 3-5 mm thick, erect, scandent, branched, densely covered with imbricate adpressed scale, scale peltifixed with the stem leaving a groove in rhizome surface, dark, lanceolate 4-6 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide at basal portion, scale margin profusely hairy. Fronds are in whorl, each whorl is separated by 5-7 cm. Phyllopodia 2-3 mm long, stipe articulated to phyllopodium, 2-5 mm long, brown, dorsally grooved, rounded; lamina simple, entire, oblong, apex cordato-acuminate; midrib raised on abaxial surface, grooved in adaxial side; texture coriaceous, profusely hairy on lower surface. Veins free, twice or thrice forked, parallel, ends in hydathodes which are arranged in a row near margin. Sori solitary, indusiate, situated on the lateral veins forming a irregular row on either side of the midrib, margin of indusium entire; spores monoete.

Type: Penang, Malayasia, Wall. Cat. n. 2235 (Acc. no. 19857 — CAL).

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